



17 June 2024

Attention: All Media Houses

ECN RESPONSE ON THE STATE HOUSE ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HEAD OF STATE

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) issues this statement to address concerns related to a meeting held on 16 July 2024, at the Office of the President of the Republic of Namibia. The objective of this meeting was to discuss the low turnout of eligible voters for the General Registration of Voters (GRV), which is currently ongoing and ends on 01 August 2024.

It is crucial to clarify that this meeting was not held at the initiation of ECN. However, upon receiving the invitation from the President, we recognised the importance of addressing the pressing issue of low voter turnout at registration points countrywide and accepted the invitation to attend the meeting. It is worth stating that it is also the President's prerogative to engage the Electoral Commission.

ECN's decision to participate in this meeting was driven solely by our deep commitment to ensuring a robust and inclusive democratic process in Namibia. As an independent body responsible for conducting free and fair elections, we understand the significance of addressing challenges related to voter turnout. It is our duty to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to find practical solutions that will enhance public participation in the electoral system.

By attending the meeting at the Office of the President, ECN demonstrated its unwavering dedication to fulfilling its constitutional mandate. It is through constructive engagement and cooperation with various stakeholders that we can effectively address the concerns related to our nation's democratic fabric, such as low voter turnout.

It is worth pointing out that the Office of the President has already addressed the matter of the attendance of the Secretary-General (SG) in the media. Suffice to state that ECN does not dictate who the President invites to his meetings. What the Commission can unequivocally state is that it only discussed matters related to how best to enhance the voter registration rate in the remaining weeks of the voter registration period; and how best to adequately resource ECN to enable it to conduct free, fair and credible elections.

ECN firmly believes that open and transparent communication with the media is crucial in reinforcing trust in our electoral processes. **We kindly request your support in accurately and objectively portraying our attendance at the meeting, emphasising our commitment to promoting democratic values and facilitating broad-based citizen participation in the upcoming, and future, elections.**

In conclusion, ECN assures the Namibian people that our commitment to conducting fair, free and credible elections remains unwavering.

END

Issued by:

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